

**Corporate Parenting
Panel
5 June 2017**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Nicola Greene (Deputy Leader) - Chair; Councillor Bobbie Dove - Vice-Chair; Councillors Blair Crawford, Rae Stollard and Michael Weinhonig.

NON-ELECTED MEMBERS PRESENT:

Lisa Male Participation Worker, Children's Social Care
CLICK Members

ALSO PRESENT:

Mike Felstead (Lead Officer, Corporate Parenting Panel) Service Manager -
Quality Assurance and Safeguarding
Dave Crewe Team Manager, Children's Social Care
Kaleigh Jones Participation Officer - Care Leavers Team
Sarah Langdale Access to Resources Manager
Penny Lodwick Service Manager - Looked After Children and Care Leavers

FROM THE DORSET CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUP:

Penny Earney Designated Nurse, Looked After Children

The meeting started at 17.03pm and finished at 19:00pm.

The meeting was adjourned from 18.15pm until 18:26pm.

Note: To see a copy of the public reports that were considered by the Panel at this meeting please visit:

<http://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/CouncilDemocratic/CouncilMeetings/CommitteesPanels/CorporateParentingPanel.aspx>

Please note that the next meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel is scheduled to take place on 4 September 2017.

It is recommended that you check this information with Democratic Services closer to the scheduled date of the next meeting in case the arrangements have been changed.

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Agenda Item / Report No.	Minute No.	Matter Considered	Decisions Made
Item 1	10	<p>MEMBERSHIP OF THE PANEL</p> <p>Apologies were received from Councillor Lynda Price and Sue Ross, Director, Adults and Children.</p>	
Item 2	11	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>There were none.</p>	
Item 3	12	<p>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 27 February 2017</p> <p>There were no actions arising from the minutes.</p>	The minutes were agreed as a correct record.
	13	<p>EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC</p> <p>That the press and public be excluded for the following items of business under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.</p>	To exclude the press and public.
Item 4	14	<p>ITEMS CIRCULATED TO PANEL MEMBERS FOR INFORMATION</p> <p>Performance Data - It was noted that there were currently 10 Unaccompanied Children Seeking Asylum (UCSA) in the borough, a commitment had been made to accommodate up to the number allocated to the Borough by central government. The Chair commented that hearing the experiences of these young people has been very powerful.</p>	Information on whether the ethnic

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		<p>The Chair asked if the 93% of Looked After Children (LAC) of a white ethnic background reflected the population of the borough as a whole. The 10 UCSA would be included in the 7% of non-white ethnic background LAC. The numbers of UCSA would be looked into further as part of Agenda Item 8 - Development of In-House Supported Lodgings.</p> <p>Number of Social Workers for Children in Care - The Chair commented that if the data was taken in the context of other similar Local Authorities then Bournemouth was performing well in terms of this criteria. However, it was important to look at the data considering the impact that it may have on individual LAC. Due to the changes that have taken place with the reorganisation of the LAC teams it is hoped that the figure will come down over time. Click Members advised that they have had numerous changes in social workers over the time that they had been in care which was not reflective of the data considered. They also reported that they were often not informed of why their social worker had changed and when they had begun to form an attachment with them this could be very difficult. The Service Manager for Looked After Children and Care Leavers responded that this should not be the case and good practice would specify that wherever possible LAC should receive an explanation and should not be in a position to think that it is something that they have done.</p>	<p>profile of LAC reflected the borough population to be included with the next performance data summary report.</p>
Item 5	15	<p>CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE RESTRUCTURE UPDATE</p> <p>The Service Manager - Looked After Children and Care Leavers provided the Panel with a verbal update on the recently implemented changes to the Children's Social Care Team. It was noted that the residents of Milton House would be transferring from the LAC Team to the Care Leavers Team. A significant number of young people had experienced numerous of changes in social workers, this was partially due to the number of agency workers and staff leavers.</p>	

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		<p>A new 'Pod' system had been developed and successfully implemented in the restructure which took place in April. There were some minor IT issues to be resolved but generally the restructure went smoothly. The LAC and Care Leavers teams were both now fully staffed, for the Care Leavers team this was the first time they had been in this position for five years and the LAC team had increased their capacity. However, there were a couple of vacancies in other teams.</p> <p>The service was determined to reduce the number of changes of social worker for young people. At present young people transferred to a new social worker at 16 but the service was considering whether this was appropriate for all young people. This would be considered further in the future once the 'pod' system was fully embedded as to whether this was the right time for all LAC.</p> <p>It was noted that it was too early to present any meaningful management data to the panel as there was no comparison data available from the previous system. However caseloads were now more manageable and there were no agency staff. There were two care leavers pods one with a manager and one with an advanced practitioner both looking after pathway advisors. There was one advisor on maternity leave and one in training but an additional social worker was coming into help and 10 month maternity cover was being arranged.</p> <p>A Member asked if the Panel could be provided with a structure diagram for the 'pod' system to better understand how it functioned. In response to a question on caseload it was reported that officers had between 12 and 18 cases depending upon experience and complexity. Recently qualified social workers would have between 10-12 cases. It was noted that the quality and continuity of service had improved with the change to the 'Pod' system.</p>	<p>The Chair asked if a newly qualified and experienced social worker from the LAC team could be invited to share their experience with a future Panel meeting.</p> <p>That a 6-month update on the number of Social Workers for LAC be brought to the Panel and that information be gathered from CLICK on how the changes in Social Workers effect young people and be brought to a future meeting.</p>

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Item 6	16	<p>CLICK PRESENTATION</p> <p>The Panel received a presentation from CLICK Members highlighting what they saw as the key elements of a good quality placement for children in care. Some of the issues that were highlighted during the presentation were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of carers • Skills of carers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Especially the ability to adapt and recognise that people have different routines in different homes; - Understanding the needs of an individual; - Recognising and understanding attachment behaviours; - Being an active listener and positive role model. • Emotional support offered from carers including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Physical affection; - Close relationships; - Time - many young people had experienced some form of trauma and need time to develop relationships; - Space and privacy; - Trust - can also be an issue and takes time to develop; - Security; - Developing memories - memory boxes for LAC. • High aspirations of carers - have an interest in education and provide support • Carers supporting young people to develop independence skills- for example in budgeting and serving and preparing meals and showing LAC how different household appliances work. • Stability and security in a placement 	<p>The Chair thanked the Click Members for their presentation and requested that any</p>

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		<p>The Click Members suggested a number of different ideas of how placements could facilitate some of these matters, for example by having one evening a week where a young person prepares a meal for the household or allowing older young people to keep their phones overnight and be more flexible with curfews as a young person nears independence.</p>	<p>issues arising from this presentation be considered in light of the next item on sufficiency.</p>
Item 7	17	<p>SUFFICIENCY</p> <p>The Access to Resources Manager gave a presentation to the Panel which looked at placements from a commissioning perspective. The presentation should be considered in light of the previous presentation given by CLICK Members. The following points were highlighted in the presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Authorities were required to ensure that sufficient accommodation was available in the area to meet the needs of the children that the authority looked after. • Children had a 75% chance of being placed in foster care but the older the child the more likely that this placement would be with an Independent Fostering Agency (IFA). • There was a 10% chance of a child placed in foster care of being placed more than 20 miles from the child's home address; this factor also increased with the age of the child. • The number of children becoming looked after in Bournemouth was not matching predicted growth. The number of LAC had decreased by 13% in the last two years which was out of step with the national trend. • Residential placements had remained broadly stable over the past five years. For children aged 13-18 the residential placement rate remained higher than the national average, which may highlight a lack of specialist provision locally. • There were more options available for young people when they turned 18. This had been a priority area for commissioning and there had been an 	

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		<p>increase in the number of semi-independent providers. There was partnership working with housing to ensure that accommodation needs of young people could be met.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The recommendations and achievements stemming from the previous Sufficiency duty for 2015-17 were highlighted and the next steps for the next Sufficiency Report for 2017-2019 were reported on. <p>Members raised a number of issues following the two presentations and requested that some of the suggestions and ideas from the CLICK presentation be fed back into training provided to foster carers. The Chair asked that feedback on this be provided at a meeting approximately 12 months from now.</p> <p>The Chair noted that although it may seem that the figures are statistical nuances the reduction in IFA placements was a cause for celebration as it meant that the local authority and CLICK could have more influence on the quality of placements as more would be provided in-house.</p> <p>Members asked if a 'wishlist' for carers could be developed for what LAC want from placements. The Access to Resources Manager confirmed that this would be considered. It was noted that different inspirational ideas for preparing young people for independence were being developed along with ensuring, through appropriate training, that foster carers were equipped to provide young people with skills for independence. A Click Member commented that this shouldn't be a training requirement but that this should be something that foster carers should naturally do as they would with their own children. However, others commented that sometimes people tended to do what was easy or best for the whole household which may not encourage developing skills for independent living, for example it may be easier for an adult to quickly prepare a meal for the whole family rather than let a young person 'experiment' with preparing a meal.</p>	<p>The Chair asked the Service Manager for Looked After Children and Care Leavers to look into how the information contained within the Click presentation could be effectively communicated to foster carers.</p>

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		<p>Members asked Click members a number of questions regarding how they viewed the quality of placements and received feedback from them.</p> <p>The Chair commented that the 20 mile radius benchmark for placements was particularly difficult for the borough being situated on the coast as it significantly reduces the available area but that as an authority it needs to be thought about sensibly. There was further discussion on the number of out of borough placements and the declining trend in the figures was welcomed. It was also noted that two thirds of those placed out of borough were in the most appropriate placement for that particular child/young person.</p>	
Item 8	18	<p>DEVELOPMENT OF IN-HOUSE SUPPORTED LODGINGS</p> <p>The Panel considered a presentation from the Team Manager - Supported Lodgings and Separated Children Seeking Asylum. The Panel was provided with an explanation of the service and sufficiency requirements. The Team Manager told the Panel about the 10 SCSA that were currently in Bournemouth. All SCSA in Bournemouth were males with an average age of 16. Bournemouth had agreed to take a target figure of 24 people. One 14-year-old was in a foster placement and some 17-18 year olds were in placements provided by International Care Network, a Bournemouth based charity which delivered rooms in staffed buildings with a keyworker to offer them support.</p> <p>Lots of work was being done with partner agencies to understand the needs of SCSA but in terms of the processes concerning them coming into care there were treated the same as other LAC.</p>	

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		<p>Originally several Muslim families were recruited as in-house carers. However, some of the feedback from SCSAs has been that they wanted to be placed with white British families as they felt that this would give them the opportunity to get the best education possible whilst they remained in the UK. The need to listen to the young people to find out what their priorities were was acknowledged by the Panel.</p> <p>A Member asked about any mental health issues within the cohort and was advised that once the young people were settled within their placement this was normally looked into. Although the young people's experiences could vary widely and any issues needed to be addressed on an individual basis.</p> <p>A Member asked about how a positive recruitment campaign could be delivered given the negative press which often arises surrounding these issues. It was noted that the campaign would be targeted at general supported lodging placements and once carers had applied and were being assessed they could be directed towards different types of placements.</p> <p>The Panel was advised that the SCSA in Bournemouth all came from other local authorities, in particular Kent and the London Boroughs who were overloaded. Bournemouth was part of a scheme run by South West Councils which ran a rota system to take on placements. However, Bournemouth had been proactive in agreeing to take on more young people ahead of its turn on the rota. The Panel also received more information on some of the issues that SCSA have to deal with and what can happen to them once they reach 18 as they are frequently not given further leave to remain once they become adults.</p> <p>The Panel thanked the Team Manager for his informative presentation and congratulated him on the development of the app which was in 12 languages and included lots of local information for SCSA children in Bournemouth.</p>	

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Item 9	19	<p>WORK PROGRAMME</p> <p>The future work programme of the Panel was noted.</p>	<p>It was agreed to add an item to the work programme for the November meeting to receive an update on Pods.</p>
Item 10	20	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>There was no other business.</p>	